Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 152126 ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 EPA-04 CEQ-01 HEW-06 L-03 COME-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:PJGLASOE:EF
APPROVED BY OES/ENP:LGRANT
EPA:KHARPER (BY PHONE)
EUR/RPE:JPOLANSKY
CEQ:GBENNSKY (BY PHONE)
OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
IO/CMD:LKAHN

-----003006 300429Z/13

R 300006Z JUN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION GENEVA INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 152126

USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, SZ, FR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT (TSCA)

REF: (A) OECD PARIS 18163, (B) STATE 116588

1. WE ARE REPEATING SEPARATELY CABLE (REFTEL A) FROM U.S. MISSION OECD REPORTING RESULTS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S CHEMICALS GROUP. PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEM WAS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES RELATING TO U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TOXIC SUBSTANCES LEGISLATION (REFTEL B). UNCLASSIFIED

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2. THERE IS A LONG USEFUL BACKGROUND OF ACTIVITY IN OECD CHEMICALS GROUP, AND MANY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (INCLUDING U.S.) WISH AT PRESENT TO CONTINUE FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL/CHEMICAL ISSUES IN THAT FORUM. WE THUS THINK IT APPROPRIATE THAT THE GROUP SERVE NOW AS FOCAL POINT FOR CONSIDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

RELATED TO TSCA. AT SAME TIME, WE ENVISAGE A TIME WHEN AT LEAST SOME OF THE ISSUES BECOME RIPE FOR BROADER ATTENTION IN A FORUM SUCH AS THE ECE, AND WE WOULD EXPECT THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS TO INTEGRATE THEIR WORK SO AS TO OPTIMIZE USE OF RESOURCES AND THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES THAT

EACH CAN OFFER. ADDITIONALLY, WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL PROVE DESIRABLE EVENTUALLY TO SEEK DEVELOPMENT OF SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION GOVERNING THE USE, TRADE, ETC. OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES. GROUNDWORK LAID IN THE OECD AND, PRESUMABLY EVENTUALLY, ECE WILL BE VALUABLE PREPARATION FOR SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

3. WE CONTINUE, OF COURSE, TO SUPPORT COMPLEMENTARY EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL TOXIC SUBSTANCES PROBLEMS THROUGH UNEP INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY OF POTENTIALLY TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND WHO, WHOSE THIRTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY RECENTLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION ON EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS ON HEALTH. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, POISONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE152126
Document Source: COPE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: PJGLASOE:EF Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770233-0350

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977062/aaaaabrx.tel

Line Count: 82 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 424a0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OECD PARIS 18163, 77 STATE 116588

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2037441 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. TOXIC SUB- STANCES CONTROL ACT (TSCA)

TAGS: SENV, SZ, FR To: GENEVA OECD

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/424a0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009